



Iowa Department of Human Services

Terry E. Branstad
Governor

Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor

Charles M. Palmer
Director

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1311

DATE: November 8, 2013

TO: Iowa Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Providers, Case Managers (CM), Targeted Case Managers (TCM), Department of Human Services (DHS) Service Workers, and Income Maintenance Workers (IMW)

FROM: Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

RE: HCBS Waiver Transportation Reimbursement Rates

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

This letter is to serve as notice that effective October 1, 2013, HCBS transportation payment will be the same as the payment negotiated by the Medicaid Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) broker.

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 249A.4 and 2013 Iowa Acts, Senate File 446, section 13, the Department of Human Services (DHS) has amended Chapter 77, "Conditions of Participation for Providers of Medical and Remedial Care," Chapter 78, "Amount, Duration and Scope of Medical and Remedial Services," and Chapter 79, "Other Policies Relating to Providers of Medical and Remedial Care," Iowa Administrative Code.

These amendments require HCBS Waiver Transportation reimbursement rates to be paid at the same per trip or per mile rate that is paid by the NEMT broker to the HCBS Waiver provider for NEMT contracted services. For those providers that do not have a contracted rate, the waiver rate paid would be the weighted average NEMT broker rate paid per trip or per mile for the member's DHS region.

These amendments have been made as current HCBS waiver transportation providers may be paid a different rate than the NEMT broker reimbursement. The waiver and NEMT transportation rates are difficult to determine due to different methodologies within current rules. Waiver rules currently state that the rate paid is a fee schedule or county contract rate. Therefore, this change provides consistency for the provider, the member and the state.

As waiver transportation services are added to a member's service plan or existing transportation services are reauthorized, Case Managers, Targeted Case Managers, and DHS Service Workers will need to change the current HCBS transportation rate listed in the Individualized Services Information System (ISIS) for the member to the HCBS provider's NEMT contracted per trip or per mile rate. The CM must also issue the provider a Notice of Decision (NOD). By September 30, 2014, all HCBS waiver transportation services will be

authorized and reimbursed at the transportation provider's contracted NEMT rate or the average rate paid per trip or the member's MHDS region.

The HCBS transportation providers' contracted NEMT rates are published at:

http://www.ime.state.ia.us/Reports_Publications/FeeSchedule.html

When the transportation service provider authorized in the member's plan does not contract with the NEMT broker, the HCBS transportation service provider will be paid at the average rate paid per trip or per mile in that member's DHS region.

Regional NEMT average rates paid is also be published at:

http://www.ime.state.ia.us/Reports_Publications/FeeSchedule.html

HCBS Transportation and Supported Community Living (SCL) Services

A provider may include the costs of transportation that are directly associated with the provision of SCL services in their reimbursement rate. Transportation is also a stand-alone service in the Intellectual Disability (ID) and Brain Injury (BI) Waiver programs that provides payment for transporting a member to conduct business errands, essential shopping, to receive medical services, to and from work or day programs and to reduce social isolation. This is the same criteria for transportation when provided as part of the SCL service. The intent of this amendment is to clarify that a provider may not simultaneously bill for SCL services and Transportation (the service) when the provider is including the cost of transportation in the SCL rate. This would be considered double billing Medicaid for the same service.

Transportation Services Funded by Sources other than Medicaid (county or region, grant, etc.)

The counties or regions may choose to continue to contract with transportation providers using the county's current methodology of reimbursement; however a transportation provider may not charge Medicaid members more for transportation than it charges the general public, including county funded transportation services.

NEMT and Waiver Transportation Services

As a reminder, transportation of waiver members to non-emergency medical services may still be provided either as a waiver service or through the NEMT broker. All waiver transportation must be authorized in the service plan.

If you have any questions please contact LeAnn Moskowitz, Program Manager, at (515) 256-4653 or email at lmoskow@dhs.state.ia.us.